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DIV. OF OIL, GAS & MINING

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June 27, 2012

Ms. Leslie Heppler
Division of Oil, Gas and Mining
Utah Department of Natural Resources
1594 West North Temple, Suite 1210
P.O. Box 145801
Salt Lake City, Utah 84114-5801

Dear Leslie Heppler,

I have called and talked to you about the Kennecott Copper Mine waste dump expansion. I am very concerned and would like to put my thoughts in this letter to you.

Kennecott Utah Copper is a very important corporation in Utah. They provide many jobs and pay taxes to the state of Utah as well as pay out large dividends to their stock holders throughout the world. The price of gold and metals have made huge increases in the past few years, making the mining company very profitable.

Kennecott Copper is in the process of a large mine expansion "Cornerstone Project". I have visited with company representatives about this expansion. They have stated that the waste rock would be placed on top of existing waste rock disposal areas around the perimeter of the open pit. This same information was included in the Large Mining Operation 2011 Annual Report. The footprint of the mine waste dump is increasing in size. The mine waste is being dumped over the mountainside filling the rill of the existing dump with new mine waste. This action of filling the long narrow valleys with fresh mine waste is setting up conditions for thunderstorm flood events where mine waste sediment, washing downstream, could fill and overflow settling ponds, collection systems and cut-off walls placed down stream. This waste contains lead and arsenic. The waste could then flow down the Butterfield Creek onto the farms and around residential houses, including my home.

In the past, storm water events that would normally channel water down the old mine waste dump rill would be collected by the settling ponds and collection systems. Because Kennecott is changing their practices of mine waste disposal, new engineering studies should be initiated concerning this problem. I feel that if changes are not made in the collection systems, many of the downstream neighbors will again be flooded with toxic mine waste.

Mining is important in Utah but should not be at the expense and safety of their neighbors. Mining rules can help the mining corporations and still be considerate of the neighboring communities.

I am asking for new engineering studies to be initiated on the volume of waste materials that have filled the rill and could be released in a new storm flood event. Are the storm collection systems adequate to protect the downstream

neighbors? I am also asking that their new mining practices be investigated and studies completed before new permits are issued for expansion of their mine waste dumps.

I propose that a physical audit should be completed each year to gain a knowledge of new mining practices that are implemented and if existing permits are being followed.

If you have questions about these observations, please contact Boyd Dansie at 801-254-0428.

Sincerely,
Boyd W. Dansie

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